

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

November 1, 2004

Montana weather and precipitation summary, October 2004.

Temperatures were generally near normal across Montana for the month of October. Precipitation was variable, with above normal conditions across the northwest and north central, and below normal amounts over much of the southern half and the northeast. The heaviest precipitation fell in two main storms. One storm occurred from about the 14th-16th, and another from the 21st-23rd. Snow fell at lower elevations of the north central between the 16th-20th, with up to two inches at Great Falls. Missoula also recorded two inches on the 18th. Over one foot of snow fell over higher elevations in the southwest during the weekend of the 23rd-24th. Subsequently, the first sub-zero temperature value was recorded at Clover Meadow Snotel on the morning of the 25th, reaching -3°F. Winds continued below the 30-year average across the state. A 78 mph gust was recorded near East Glacier on the 30nd, while Logan Pass reached 101 mph the same day.

**Historical Rank of Precipitation (inches)
for the Past Month and Water Year to Date**

Location	Oct 1 - Oct 31	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Oct 31	% of Normal	Rank	Percentile	Years of Record
Billings	1.67	126	1.67	126	14 th wettest	80 th	71
Bozeman	1.22	111	1.22	111	20 th wettest	67 th	62
Butte	0.33	42	0.33	42	26 th driest	24 th	106
Cut Bank	0.93	198	0.93	198	16 th wettest	84 th	97
Dillon	0.88	138	0.88	138	14 th wettest	76 th	59
Glasgow	0.47	66	0.47	66	54 th driest	50 th	108
Great Falls	1.05	113	1.05	113	31 st wettest	72 nd	112
Havre	0.67	108	0.67	108	49 th wettest	60 th	125
Helena	0.41	62	0.41	62	51 st driest	41 st	124
Kalispell	1.48	154	1.48	154	42 nd wettest	77 th	106
Lewistown	1.20	113	1.20	113	45 th wettest	57 th	104
Livingston	1.87	156	1.87	156	16 th wettest	84 th	102
Miles City	1.56	138	1.56	138	45 th wettest	60 th	112
Missoula	0.55	66	0.55	66	33 rd driest	31 st	108

For an automated version of this chart, updated daily, go to
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/greatfalls/getproduct.pl?PCPNTOTALS>

For a state map of % of normal water year precipitation (updated around the 7th of each month), go to:
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/txf.php?TEXT+wateryear_percent.html

For the latest information on mountain snow pack from the NRCS, go to:
<http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/index.html>

For the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, issued weekly by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), go to:
<http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

Montana precipitation/temperature forecast.

As of November 1st, the CPC November temperature forecast is a 50 to 55% chance of warmer than normal conditions. The November precipitation forecast is for equal chances of wetter or drier than normal conditions. For the period November through January, the forecast calls for a 55 to 60% chance of above normal temperatures and equal chances of above or below normal precipitation over the state. Graphics and text relating to these outlooks, and additional long-range forecasts can be found at

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/multi_season/13_seasonal_outlooks/color/seasonal_forecast.html

Further inquiries about the moisture conditions can be directed to Dave Bernhardt or Gina Loss at (406) 453-2081. Many more links can be found on the Drought Information Page of the NWS Great Falls web site at
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/txf.php?HTML+drought>